

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 FPC-01

AID-20 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OMB-01 RSR-01

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R 281150 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7415

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 2466

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EGEN, BR, PA

SUBJECT: ITAIPU, DAM

1. THE BRAZIL- PARAGUAY TREATY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ITAIPU HYDROELECTIC PROJECT ON THE PARANA RIVER WAS SIGNED APRIL 26. THE TREATY CREATES A BINATIONAL ENTERPRISE, NAMED ITAIPU, FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT. NEW ENTITY WILL BE JOINTLY AND EQUALLY OWNED BY THE BRAZILIAN AND PARAGUAYAN POWER COMPANIES, ELECTROBRAS AND ANDE. ITAIPU WILL BE CAPITALIZED AT US\$100 MILLION, THE PARAGUAYAN HALF OF WHICH WILL BE LOANED BY THE GOB AT 6 PERCENT INTEREST. (COMMENT : IT THESE FUNDS ARE OBTAINED FROM OVERSEAS SOURCES, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORT, 6 PERCENT REPRESENTS A CONSIDERABLE BRAZILIAN SUBSIDY FOR PARAGUAY' S PARTICIPATION). THE TREATY EMPOWERS ITAIPU TO INCUR FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE STUDY, CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE PROJECT, GUARANTEED JOINTLY OR SEPARATELY BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. IN A SEPARATE NOTE GOB UNCLASSIFIED

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PROMISES TO GUARANTEE ALL CREDITS TO ITAIPU NECESSARY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE DAM. ALL FOREIGN (THIRD COUNTRIES) EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARE TO BE EXECUTED IN THE BRAZILIAN EXCHANGE MARKET.

2. ANNEXED TO TREATY WAS LIST OF MAJOR WORKS INCLUDED

IN PROJECT: CENTRAL DAM, CONCRETE, 224 METERS. DENTS ARRESTED AS A RESULT OF ANTI-GVN POLITICAL ACTIVITY, HAVE BEEN MISTREATED WHILE IN CUSTODY. ALL AVAILABLE EVIDENCE TENDS TO DISPROVE ALLEGATIONS OF WIDESPREAD OR SYSTEMATIC MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS. MOST OF THE MISTREATMENT THAT OCCURRED REPORTEDLY HAPPENED SOON AFTER ARREST WHILE THE PRISONERS WERE STILL UNDER POLICE CONTROL FOR INTERROGATION, AS OPPOSED TO IMPRISONMENT UNDER DIRECTORATE OF CORRECTIONS CONTROL. CASES ARISING IN THE PRISON SYSTEM APPEAR TO HAVE RESULTED FROM THE FRUSTRATION OF INDIVIDUAL GUARDS OR PRISON AUTHORITIES WITH RECALCITRANT PRISONERS.

Q(3) WHAT IS THE MISSION'S CONCEPT OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY, IF ANY, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PRACTICE OF ARRESTS FOR POLITICAL DISSENT AND PROTEST AND IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE PRISON ABUSES IN SOUTH VIETNAM?

A. THE DEGREE OF US GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY, IF ANY, FOR THE ACTIONS OF ANOTHER GOVERNMENT IS A QUESTION PROPERLY RESERVED FOR RESPONSE BY APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. THE MISSION WILL THEREFORE NOT COMMENT ON THIS MATTER.

Q(4) WHAT MEASURE OF OFFICIAL INFLUENCE WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE U. S. GOVERNMENT SHOULD IT CHOOSE TO INTEREST ITSELF IN THESE QUESTIONS?

A. THERE IS A RANGE OF OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE US GOVERNMENT SHOULD IT DECIDE TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR AGAINST THE GVN AT THIS TIME TO MODIFY ITS POLICIES. QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NATURE OF THESE OPTIONS AND THE QUESTION OF WHICH, IF ANY, OF THEM MIGHT BE EMPLOYED ARE MORE PROPERLY ADDRESSED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Q(5) WHAT, IF ANYTHING, HAS THE U. S. GOVERNMENT ACCOMPLISHED WITH REGARD TO REFORMING RVN PRACTICES INVOLVING POLITICAL ARRESTS AND MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS (OTHER THAN PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE PHYSICAL FACILITIES)?

A. THE UNITED STATES IS IN NO POSITION TO TELL THE GVN OR ANY OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENT WHOM OF ITS CITIZENS TO ARREST AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WHOM NOT TO ARREST. WHEN ARRESTS OF NON-COMMUNIST DISSIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED, THE EMBASSY HAS, ON OCCASION, BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GVN AT VARIOUS LEVELS, OUR VIEWS ON THE PROBABLE EFFECTS OF THESE ARRESTS ON WORLD OPINION, AND RAISED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NET VALUE

OF THESE ARRESTS TO THE GVN IN THE LONG RUN. THE FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER, HAS ALWAYS RESTED WITH THE GVN.

OUR ADVISORS TO THE POLICE AND TO THE VARIOUS MILITARY SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAVE CONSISTENTLY URGED PROPER AND HUMANE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS, POINTING OUT THAT PROPERLY APPLIED VERBAL INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES ARE FAR MORE EFFACASIOUS IN DEVELOPING RELIABLE INFORMATION. ALSO THE GVN'S CORRECTIONS POLICY IN ITS RE-EDUCATION CENTERS, AS THE PRISONS ARE CALLED, IS TO CHANGE THE OUTLOOK OF THE PRISONER SO THAT, AFTER RELEASE, HE WILL

BE A USEFUL MEMBER OF SOCIETY; IN THE CASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, THERE IS A PROGRAM OF INDOCTRINATION AIMED AT PERSUADING THE DETAINEES TO SUPPORT THE GVN AGAINST THE COMMUNIST SIDE. OBVIOUSLY MISTREATMENT WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE TO THE AIMS OF THIS POLICY. NOW THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT, AMERICAN ADVISORS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO WORK WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE, THE DIRECTORATE OF

CORRECTIONS, AND THE ARVN, OUR ABILITY TO INFLUENCE GVN TREATMENT OF DETAINEES AT THE LCCAL LEVEL HAS DECLINED. CONCOMITANTLY, THE LIKLIHOOD THAT WE WILL LEARN OF MISTREATMENT IF IT OCCURS HAS ALSO DECLINED.

Q(6) WHAT IS THE MISSION' S ATTITUDE TOWARD ASSISTING CONGRESSIONAL OR PRIVATE GROOUPS WHO WISH TO MAKE INQUIRIES OR REPRESENTATIONS TO THE RVN CONCERNING POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISON PRACTICES?

A. THE MISSION HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS POINTED OUT TO THE GVN THE ADVANTAGES THAT WOULD ACCRUE SHOULD THE GVN GO OUT OF ITS WAY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO LEGITIMATE INQUIRIES FROM ABROAD REGARDING PRISONERS AND PRISON PRACTICES IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS WOULD BE IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE ATTITUDE OF THE DRV AND THE PRG, WHO HAVE NEVER GIVEN OUT ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR DETENTION FACILITIES OR CONCERNING THE NUMBERS OR IDENTIES OF THOSE DETAINED. PRESIDENT THIEU' S RECENT OFFER MADE ON FACE THE NATION, APRIL 8, TO ALLOW PRESS AND DIPLOMATIC TOURS OF GVN PRISONS INDICATES THAT THE GVN' S POLICY ON THIS QUESTION HAS BECOME MORE LIBERAL, THOUGH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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AMERICAN REPRESENTATIONS HAD IN PROMPTING THE GVN TO MAKE CHANGE. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE THE GVN TO RESPOND FULLY TO REPRESENTATIONS BY CONGRESSIONAL OR PRIVATE GROUPS SINCERELY INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT ABOUT PRISONS CONDITIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, BUT IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FINAL DECISION IN SUCH MATTERS WOULD RESIDE WITH THE GVN. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT SUCH INQUIRIES FROM PRIVATE GROUPS SHOULD PROPERLY BE ADDRESSED TO THE GVN OR TO ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND NOT TO THIS EMBASSY FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE GVN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 07 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRASIL02466
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730460/abqceehr.tel
Line Count: 151
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Dec-2001 by elbezejf>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980206
Subject: ITAIPIU, DAM
TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, BR, PA, EGEN
To: STATE INFO ASUNCION
BUENOS AIRES
MONTEVIDEO
RIO DE JANEIRO
SAO PAULO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

